

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Kindly cancel claims 17-36, conditioned upon entry of the following new claims:

37. A grinding machine having a direction of material flow, with at least one blade defining a last blade in the direction of material flow, and a safety device downstream of the last blade in the direction of material flow, the safety device comprising a plate perforated by holes, each hole having a hole diameter less than or equal to 6 millimeters.

38. The grinding machine of claim 37 further characterized in that the machine can only be put into operation when the safety device is in place.

39. The grinding machine of claim 37 wherein the plate has a thickness of at least 5 millimeters.

40. The grinding machine of claim 37 wherein the plate has a thickness, further characterized in that the machine cannot be put into operation when the thickness of the plate drops below a minimum thickness as a result of wear.

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41. The grinding machine of claim 37 wherein is defined a cumulative operating time of the grinding machine with a particular plate, further characterized in that the machine cannot be put